Year	Foodgrains production (Million Tonnes)		Growth Rates (Percentage)	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
1991-92	182.50	168.38	3.40	+4.54
1992-93	183.00	179.48	0.27	6.59
1993-94	188.00	184.26	2.73	2.66
1994-95	189.00	191.50	0.53	3.93
1995-96	192.00	180.42	1.59	+5.79
1996-97	193.50	199.44	0.78	10.54
1997-98	200.00	192.43	3.36	+3.51
Average Annual Gr. Rate (1987-88 to 1997-98)			2.27	3.47

Production and Storage of Wheat

315. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are expecting a bumper wheat harvest of 67 million tonnes this summer as against 63.5 million tonnes produced during the last year; and

(b) if so, whether Government plan to store the excess wheat crop so as to utilise it for healthy consumption in case of shortages in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) According to advance estimates, the production of wheat during 1998-99 is likely to be 69.13 million tonnes as against the production of 65.90 million tonnes during last year.

(b) The Government has got a system of creating buffer stock through Food Corporation of India and other agencies. Wheat is procured on its harvest at the minimum support prices for providing stable food security environment in future.

Production and Export of Mushrooms

316. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to increase the production and export of mushrooms;

(b) if so, the States where mushrooms are being grown;

(c) the incentives granted by the Central Government to the States to increase areas under mushroom cultivation in view of its tremendous export potentiality;

(d) the projection made for the purpose for Ninth Plan; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Government of India have initiated various measures to increase the production and export of mushroom in the country. Even though mushroom is grown all over country, it is grown extensively in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and North Eastern states. Production of mushroom has increased from 25,000 tonnes in 1992-93 to 40,000 tonnes in 1996-97 and exports have registered an increase from Rs. 2066 lakhs to Rs. 5128 lakhs during this period.

(c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation provides financial assistance under central sector scheme of mushroom production to the State Governments for the following components.

(a) Establishment of Spawn Production Units (Rs. 11.50 lakhs/unit)

(b) Establishment of Pasteurised Compost Units (Rs. 28.50 lakh/unit)

(c) Training of farmers (Rs. 500/- per farmer). During the current year, states have been allocated Rs. 475 lakhs under the scheme. National Horticulture Board under DAC also provides Soft Loan assistance to the extent of Rs. one crore to private public and cooperatives. National Centre for Mushroom Research and Training (NCMRT) is a premier research institute of ICAR engaged in research for evolving different strains of mushroom and perfecting production techniques for commercial purposes. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries also provides financial assistance for setting up of integrated projects of mushroom under its plan scheme of development of infrastructural facilities. APEDA under the Ministry of Commerce is engaged in creating necessary infrastructure for export of perishable horticulture produce including mushroom, in collaboration with Airports Authority of India and other government agencies.

(d) and (e) The central sector scheme of mushroom production has been continued as per VIII Plan guidelines, for the first two years of IX Plan. According to NCMRT estimates, the production of mushroom is likely to cross one lakh tonnes by the end of IX Plan.

Shortfall in the Production of Pulses

317. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices of pulses are likely to face the onion way during the next few months;

(b) if so, whether there has been any shortfall in the production of pulses in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to boost the production of pulses or to face the shortage of pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The prices of pulses are not showing any rising trend in the last one month. The prices may go down further with the arrival of the Tur & other pulse crops in the market in the next few months.

(b) The production of pulses in the country in the last 3 years is given below:

1996-97	14.25 million tonnes	
1997-98	13.07	-do-
1998-99	14.78	-do- (likely)

(c) The reasons for non-increase of pulse production include;

(i) Cultivation of pulses is less remunerative than that of cereals such as wheat and rice and oilseeds or of other commercial crops. The farmers, therefore divert the better lands and resources or the cultivation of latter.

(ii) Pulses are raised under rainfed conditions on marginal and submarginal lands, which are poor in fertility.

(iii) The varieties available at present are susceptiable to a number of disease like yellow mosaic and powdery mildew in Moong, Urad and Cowpea, sterility mosaic in arhar and wilt and blight in gram reducing the yield. They are also vulnerable to termites and susceptible to pests.

(iv) No major break-through has been achieved in pulse production technology and improvement of high yielding germ plasm. The varieties